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EXAMINER
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GREENE, DANIEL L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3621

DATE MAILED: 01/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/826,052

Applicant(s)

MCISAAC ET AL.

Examiner

Daniel L. Greene

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. Claims 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
2. The terms "if only one coincidence occurs, and if more than one coincidence occurs" in claims 28 and 29 are relative terms which renders the claim indefinite. The terms "if only one coincidence occurs, and if more than one coincidence occurs", are not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. The phraseologies "if only one" or "if more than one" are indefinite and leave the interpretation of the limitation open ended and none specific.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
2. Claims 1-5, 12-13, 15-19, and 26-27 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mital U.S. Patent 5,903,652 [Mital].

As per claims 1 and 15:

Mital discloses:

a merchant server system including a computer processor and associated memory, said merchant server system offering items for sale; Col. 14, lines 20-30.

a buyer system including a computer processor and associated memory, said buyer system being selectively coupled to said merchant server system over said communication network to initiate a transaction, wherein, during said transaction, said buyer system selects one or more of said items for purchase; Col. 11-12, lines 1-67.

a security server system including a computer processor and associated memory and an encryption device, said security server system receiving buyer information from said buyer system, encrypting said buyer information in an encryption key that prevents said merchant server system from decrypting said buyer information, and transferring said encrypted buyer information to said merchant server system; Col. 13, lines 20-50.

a third server system including a computer processor and associated memory, said third server system being selectively coupled to said merchant server system, wherein said merchant server system transmits at least a portion of said encrypted buyer information to said third server system for processing during said transaction. Col. 23, lines 20-67.

Mital discloses the claimed invention, as discussed above, except for the step of delineating the respective servers i.e. third server system. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify the teachings of Mital, to provide the step of a

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third server system because he does show and describe as per Figure 1, four separate servers. Mital further discloses that the modules performing the different transaction functions can be resident on the different parties computers or stand-alone. Since the applicant has not disclosed that separating transaction functions onto different servers solves any stated problem in a new or unexpected way or is for any particular purpose which is unobvious to one of ordinary skill and it appears that the claimed feature does not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art since, the teachings of Mital will perform the invention as claimed by the applicant with any means, method, or product to provide anonymous transactions over the Internet.

As per claims 2 and 16:

Mital discloses the claimed invention, as discussed above, except for the step of wherein said third server system is one of a delivery server system and a payment processor server system. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify the teachings of Mital, to provide the step of wherein said third server system is one of a delivery server system and a payment processor server system. Mital discloses about servers being used to provide shipping and payment processing functions.

Assigning different locations within a transaction system of the various functions does not change the finale outcome/completion of a transaction. Mital meets the security criteria's set forth by the Applicant during the transactions. Since the applicant has not disclosed that wherein said third server system is one of a delivery server system and a payment processor server system solves any stated problem in a new or unexpected

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way or is for any particular purpose which is unobvious to one of ordinary skill and it appears that the claimed feature does not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art since, the teachings of Mital will perform the invention as claimed by the applicant with any means, method, or product to have the said third server system being one of a delivery server system and a payment processor server system.

As per claims 3 and 17:

Mital further discloses:

wherein said encrypted buyer information received by said delivery server system is delivery address information of said buyer. Col. 16, lines 30-67.

As per claims 4 and 18:

Mital further discloses:

wherein said encrypted buyer information received by said payment processor server system is payment information of said buyer. Col. 26, lines 8-60.

As per claims 5 and 19:

Mital further discloses:

a fourth server system including a computer processor and associated memory, said fourth server system being selectively coupled to one of said merchant server system and said third server system, wherein said one of said merchant server system

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and said third server system transmits at least a portion of said encrypted buyer information to said fourth server system for processing during said transaction. Fig. 1-3.

As per claim 12:

Mital discloses:

a merchant server system including a computer processor and associated memory, said merchant server system offering items for sale; Col. 14, lines 20-30.

a buyer system including a computer processor and associated memory, said buyer system being selectively coupled to said merchant server system over said communication network to initiate a transaction, wherein, during said transaction, said buyer system selects one or more of said items for purchase; Col. 11-12, lines 1-67.

a security server system including a computer processor and associated memory, said security server system being selectively coupled to said buyer system to receive buyer information from said buyer system in the course of said transaction, said buyer information including delivery address information and payment information; Col. 13, lines 20-50.

a delivery server system including a computer processor and associated memory; Col. 16, lines 30-67.

a payment processor server system including a computer processor and associated memory; Col. 26, lines 8-60.

Mital discloses the claimed invention, as discussed above, except for the step of delineating the respective servers i.e. wherein said security server transmits said

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delivery address information to said delivery server system and said payment information to said payment processor server system.

It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify the teachings of Mital, to provide the step of wherein said security server transmits said delivery address information to said delivery server system and said payment information to said payment processor server system because he does show and describe as per Figure 1, four separate servers. Mital further discloses that the modules performing the different transaction functions can be resident on the different parties computers or stand-alone. Since the applicant has not disclosed that separating transaction functions onto different servers solves any stated problem in a new or unexpected way or is for any particular purpose which is unobvious to one of ordinary skill and it appears that the claimed feature does not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art since, the teachings of Mital will perform the invention as claimed by the applicant with any means, method, or product to provide anonymous transactions over the Internet.

As per claim 13:

Mital further discloses:

wherein said security server system encrypts said delivery address information into a first document and encrypts said payment information into a second document.

Fig. 6 A-B.



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As per claim 26:

Mital discloses:

a merchant server system including a computer processor and associated memory, said merchant server system offering items for sale; Col. 14, lines 20-30.

a buyer system including a computer processor and associated memory, said buyer system being selectively coupled to said merchant server system over said communication network to initiate a transaction, wherein, during said transaction, said buyer system selects one or more of said items for purchase; Col. 11-12, lines 1-67

a security server system including a computer processor and associated memory and an encryption device, said security server system receiving buyer information from said buyer system and forming a merchant document including information regarding the item being purchased, encrypting said buyer information into a payment document including the buyer's payment information and encrypting said buyer information into an address document including the buyer's shipping address; Fig 6 A.

said security server system transferring said buyer information to a first one of said merchant server system, a payment server system and a delivery server system, wherein said first system removes the document associated with the first system and transmits the remaining documents to a second one of said merchant server system, said payment server system and said delivery server system, wherein said second system removes the document associated with the second system and transmits the remaining document to a third one of said merchant server system, said payment server system and said delivery server system; Col. 13-14.

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wherein said security server system encrypts said buyer information using an encryption key in which only said payment server system is capable of decrypting said payment document and only said delivery server system is capable of decrypting said address document. Col. 14-15.

Mital discloses the claimed invention, as discussed above, except for the step of delineating the respective servers i.e. security server system. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify the teachings of Mital, to provide the step of a security server system because he does show and describe as per Figure 1, four separate servers. Mital further discloses that the modules performing the different transaction functions can be resident on the different parties computers or stand-alone. Since the applicant has not disclosed that separating transaction functions onto different servers solves any stated problem in a new or unexpected way or is for any particular purpose which is unobvious to one of ordinary skill and it appears that the claimed feature does not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art since, the teachings of Mital will perform the invention as claimed by the applicant with any means, method, or product to provide anonymous transactions over the Internet.

As per claim 27:

Mital discloses:

A. establishing a connection between a buyer system and a merchant server system over said communications network to initiate a purchase transaction; Fig. 1, **100, 108.**

B. said buyer system selecting an item offered for sale by said merchant server system; Fig. 3.

C. said buyer system transmitting buyer information to a security server system; Fig. 3.

D. said security server system encrypting said buyer information using an encryption key that prevents said merchant server system from decrypting said encrypted buyer information; Fig. 4.

E. said security server system transmitting said encrypted buyer information to said merchant server system; Fig. 5.

F. said merchant server system transmitting at least a portion of said encrypted buyer information to a third server system for processing during said purchase transaction; Fig. 5.

G. said third server system decrypting said at least a portion of said encrypted buyer information before processing said information. Fig. 5.

Mital discloses the claimed invention, as discussed above, except for the step of delineating the respective servers i.e. third server system. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify the teachings of Mital, to provide the step of a third server system because he does show and describe as per Figure 1, four separate servers. Mital further discloses that the modules performing the different transaction

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functions can be resident on the different parties computers or stand-alone. Since the applicant has not disclosed that separating transaction functions onto different servers solves any stated problem in a new or unexpected way or is for any particular purpose which is unobvious to one of ordinary skill and it appears that the claimed feature does not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art since, the teachings of Mital will perform the invention as claimed by the applicant with any means, method, or product to provide anonymous transactions over the Internet.

**3. Claims 6-11, 14, and 20-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mital, and further in view of Ohta et al. U.S. Patent 4,977,595 [Ohta]**

As per claims 6 and 20:

Mital discloses the claimed invention except for the wherein said security server system encrypts said buyer information into a first document and a second document, wherein said first document is transmitted to said third server system by said merchant server system and said second document is transmitted to said fourth server system by said merchant server system. However, Mital does disclose multi ORDER OBJECTS that are encrypted and utilized throughout the transaction network. Fig. 6 A-B. Ohta

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teaches that it is known in the art to provide wherein said security server system encrypts said buyer information into a first document and a second document, wherein said first document is transmitted to said third server system by said merchant server system and said second document is transmitted to said fourth server system by said merchant server system. (Second Embodiment - Col. 19-22).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the system and apparatus for monitoring secure information in a computer network of Mital with the wherein said security server system encrypts said buyer information into a first document and a second document, wherein said first document is transmitted to said third server system by said merchant server system and said second document is transmitted to said fourth server system by said merchant server system of Ohta, in order to insure the security of the transaction and amplify on the teachings of Mital.

As per claims 7 and 21:

Mital discloses the claimed invention except for the wherein said security server system encrypts said buyer information into a first document and a second document, wherein said first and second documents are transmitted to said third server system by said merchant server system and said second document is transmitted to said fourth server system by said third server system. However, Mital does disclose multi ORDER OBJECTS that are encrypted and utilized throughout the transaction network. Fig. 6 A-

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B. Ohta teaches that it is known in the art to provide wherein said security server system encrypts said buyer information into a first document and a second document, wherein said first and second documents are transmitted to said third server system by said merchant server system and said second document is transmitted to said fourth server system by said third server system. (Second Embodiment - Col. 19-22).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the system and apparatus for monitoring secure information in a computer network of Mital with the wherein said security server system encrypts said buyer information into a first document and a second document, wherein said first and second documents are transmitted to said third server system by said merchant server system and said second document is transmitted to said fourth server system by said third server system of Ohta, in order to insure the security of the transaction and amplify on the teachings of Mital.

As per claims 8, 22 and 24:

Mital further discloses:

wherein said third server system is one of a delivery server system and a payment processor server system and wherein said fourth server system is the other of said delivery server system and said payment processor server system, and wherein said first document contains one of the buyer system's delivery address information and the buyer system's payment information and the second document contains the other of

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said buyer system's delivery address information and said buyer system's payment information. Fig. 6A-B, Fig. 4.

As per claims 9 and 25:

Mital further discloses:

wherein said security server system encrypts said first document using a first encryption key and said second document using a second encryption key, wherein said one of said third server system and said fourth server system that receives said first document can decrypt said first document but not said second document and wherein said other one of said third server system and said fourth server system that receives said second document can decrypt said second document but not said first document. Col. 15-18, lines 1-67.

As per claims 10 and 23:

Mital further discloses:

wherein said third server system is one of a delivery server system and a payment processor server system and wherein said fourth server system is the other of said delivery server system and said payment processor server system, and wherein said first document contains one of the buyer system's delivery address information and the buyer system's payment information and the second document contains the other of said buyer system's delivery address information and said buyer system's payment information. Col. 15-18, lines 1-67.

As per claim 11:

Mital further discloses:

wherein said security server system encrypts said first document using a first encryption key and said second document using a second encryption key, wherein said one of said third server system and said fourth server system that receives said first document and second documents from said merchant server system can decrypt said first document but not said second document and wherein said other one of said third server system and said fourth server system that receives said second document can decrypt said second document but not said first document. Col. 15-18, lines 1-67.

As per claim 14:

Mital discloses the claimed invention except for the wherein said security server system transmits said first and second documents to said merchant server system, which transmits said first document to said delivery server system and said second document to said payment processor server system; and wherein said merchant server system is incapable of decrypting said first and second documents.

However, Mital does disclose multi ORDER OBJECTS that are encrypted and utilized throughout the transaction network. Fig. 6 A-B. Ohta teaches that it is known in the art to provide wherein said security server system transmits said first and second documents to said merchant server system, which transmits said first document to said delivery server system and said second document to said payment processor server



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system; and wherein said merchant server system is incapable of decrypting said first and second documents. (Second Embodiment - Col. 19-22).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the system and apparatus for monitoring secure information in a computer network of Mital with the wherein said security server system transmits said first and second documents to said merchant server system, which transmits said first document to said delivery server system and said second document to said payment processor server system; and wherein said merchant server system is incapable of decrypting said first and second documents of Ohta, in order to insure the security of the transaction and amplify on the teachings of Mital.

Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant.

Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. \*\*\*

5. Colvin, Sr. - 5,825,881 - PUBLIC NETWORK MERCHANDISING SYSTEM

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6. Payne et al. - 5,909,492 - NETWORK SALES SYSTEM
7. Okamoto -5,926,548 -METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IMPLEMENTING  
HIERARCHICAL ELECTRONIC CASH
8. Low et al. -5,420,926 -ANONYMOUS CREDIT CARD TRANSACTIONS
9. Camp et al. -6,076,078 -ANONYMOUS CERTIFIED DELIVERY
10. Simon -5,768,385 -UNTTTRACEABLE ELECTRONIC CASH
11. Nishioka et al. -5,754,656 -ELECTRONIS SHOPPING METHOD, ELECTRONIC  
SHOPPING SYSTEM AND DOCUMENT AUTHENTICATING METHOD RELATING  
THERETO.

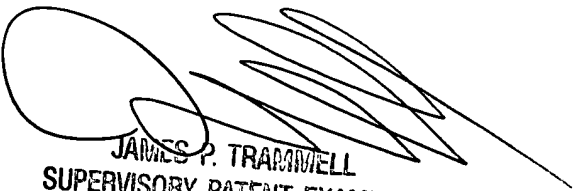
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel L. Greene whose telephone number is 703-306-5539. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thur. 8am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James P. Trammell can be reached on 703-305-9768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-305-7687.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

12/16/03

dlg



JAMES P. TRAMMELL  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
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